



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

LONDON ROAD TOUCAN CROSSING
BEREWOOD
WATERLOOVILLE
HAMPSHIRE

AUGUST 2025
UPDATED DECEMBER 2025

ON BEHALF OF GRAINGER LTD



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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Biodiversity Net Gain Report, prepared by LC Ecological Services Limited, was undertaken to assess the potential to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain to support an application for the proposed connection of the toucan crossing to Town Park at London Road, Berewood, Waterlooville, Hampshire (Central grid ref: SU 67609 08732).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to identify the net percentage change in biodiversity value on site post-development and to establish whether a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain can be delivered under the mandatory national policy requirements.
- 1.3 The baseline site habitats include other neutral grassland, modified grassland, mixed scrub and species rich native hedgerow with trees. The baseline value is **1.25 habitat units and 0.49 linear units and zero watercourse units.**
- 1.4 It is concluded from this assessment and the BNG metric calculation that the proposals will deliver a net gain of **+0.14 habitat units (10.86%) and a net gain of 0.10 linear units (21.04%). The trading rules are satisfied for both habitats and linear features.**
- 1.5 This assessment has demonstrated that the proposals have met the statutory minimum of 10% net gain for habitats and linear features.
- 1.6 To ensure that habitats created on-site and off-site reach their target condition, a Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will need to be created and implemented. Any proposed habitats and features created (either on, or off-site) will need to be managed and maintained over a minimum of 30-year aftercare period, in line with the mandatory requirements.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Project brief

- 2.1 This Biodiversity Net Gain Report, prepared by LC Ecological Services Limited, was undertaken to assess the potential to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain to support of an application for the proposed connection of the toucan crossing to Town Park at London Road, Berewood, Waterloooville, Hampshire (Central grid ref: SU 67609 08732). This assessment is based on the proposals as shown in appendix I.

Preparation of Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

- 2.2 This assessment was conducted using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024).

Purpose of the report

- 2.3 The purpose of this report is to outline the following:
- To identify the net percentage change in biodiversity value on site following the most recent design proposals.
 - To establish whether a minimum of 10% BNG can be delivered, in accordance with the mandatory national policy.
 - To demonstrate that any net gain can be obtained with reasonable and viable habitat creation which can be maintained in the long-term.

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) '*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*' sets out the Government's policies on biodiversity, landscape, and geological conservation. Relevant paragraphs within this chapter include:

- **Paragraph 187:** Recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services and minimise impacts on biodiversity, providing net gains in biodiversity.
- **Paragraph 188:** Planning positively and distinguishing between the hierarchy of designated sites and allocating land with the least environmental value and maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure.
- **Paragraph 192:** Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity by safeguarding wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks; promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and securing biodiversity net gain.
- **Paragraph 193:** Refuse development if found to have significant harm to biodiversity; is on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is likely to have an adverse effect; if results in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats. Developments with the primary objective to conserve or enhance biodiversity will be supported, while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design and can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature.
- **Paragraph 194:** Protection to be given to potential SPA and possible SACs, proposed Ramsar sites, and sites identified or required as compensatory measures for impacts to these sites.
- **Paragraph 195:** Considers if the development is to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

3.2 From 12th February 2024, delivery of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory for most developments, through the Environment Act 2021. Small developments were required to achieve this net gain from 2nd April 2024.

Current regulations and guidance have been included here for context (DLUHC, 2023):

- **The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No.8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024:** Establishes the official start date for the mandatory requirement of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for most types of new planning applications in England. It also outlines transitional provisions to ensure a smooth transition from the existing system to the new BNG requirement.
- **The Biodiversity Net Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024:** Specifies categories of development that are exempt from the BNG requirement, such as projects deemed to have minimal impact on biodiversity. This regulation aims to ensure that BNG is focused on developments that have a significant impact on the natural environment.
- **The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024:** Amends existing planning regulations to incorporate provisions related to BNG, including requirements for planning applications, Biodiversity Gain Plans, and phased developments. This regulation aims to streamline the delivery of BNG and ensure it is effectively integrated into the planning process.

3.3 Relevant planning policies within the Havant Borough Core Strategy, (Adopted March 2011) include:

- Policy CS11 Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough
- Policy CS13 Green Infrastructure

4.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Study Area

- 4.1 The application area is 0.19 hectares in size (excluding trees) and is located at approximate central Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SU 67609 08732.

Sources of information

- 4.2 The walkover survey was undertaken by LC Ecological Services Limited on the 14th August 2025. The habitats present were classified according to the UK Habitat Classification (version 2.0) (UKHabs, 2023) methodology and criteria for this assessment.
- 4.3 A description of the vegetation was noted, listing species encountered and scoring their abundance using the DAFOR scale shown below, whilst recording plant species using nomenclature according to Stace (2019).

D	Dominant
A	Abundant
F	Frequent
O	Occasional
R	Rare
L	Local (used as a prefix to any of the above).

- 4.4 The habitat surveys recorded the habitat types across the site with a record made of the botanical interest in each area.
- 4.5 Habitats recorded on site were transposed into a digital map using QGIS coordinate referencing system OSGB 1936/ British National Grid.
- 4.6 Habitats recorded on site were measured using the derived areas (Ellipsoidal – EPSG 7001) and habitat areas are provided in hectares. Linear features were measured using the derived length (Ellipsoidal – EPSG 7001) and the measurements provided in kilometres.

Assessment Process

- 4.7 The BNG assessment was undertaken in accordance with the CIRA *Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Developments* (CIRA, 2019).

- 4.8 To undertake the BNG assessment the habitat classification notes obtained from the baseline botanical assessment were inserted into the BNG calculator using the technical data provided in the appendices of the calculator tool.
- 4.9 The level of mitigation applied was done in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy outlined in table 11.5 of the *Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Developments* (CIRA, 2019), and has been provided below:

Any combination of these factors might apply	
Does the habitat affected have high biodiversity value?	When a project affects rare habitats, creating new areas of the habitat is often required to ensure no reduction in cover. This only applies after strict application of the mitigation hierarchy, and does not apply to irreplaceable habitat or statutory designated sites. Enhancing existing habitats that should have high biodiversity value, but that are currently degraded, could generate valuable benefits for biodiversity.
Does the habitat affected provide a critical ecological function?	When a project affects critical ecological functions, creating new habitat that provides equivalent or better ecological functions is often required to ensure no reduction in provision of the function.
Do stakeholders or local policies prioritise enhancements in the habitat over increasing its coverage?	Enhancing existing habitats could contribute to this priority.
Alternatively, do stakeholders or local policies prioritise increases in habitat cover?	Creating new habitat could be most appropriate.
Is provision of green space a priority issue locally?	Projects that achieve BNG by enhancing habitats elsewhere, although resulting in a loss of green space, can cause significant negative consequences locally.
Are existing habitats at risk from future threats and/or under continued decline?	Enhance habitat to secure its long-term future, eg by making habitat more resilient to other pressures, such as the effects of climate change. Also protect habitats in decline from declining further (also known as averted loss).

Limitations

- 4.10 Whilst every effort has been made to accurately map the habitats on site there may be discrepancies associated with the projected coordinate reference system. However, the National Grid transformation is considered to be the most accurate with an accuracy level of less than 1 metre.
- 4.11 The botanical survey and condition assessment were undertaken in August during the key botanical survey period; however, some early flowering species may have been missed.
- 4.12 The condition assessment was undertaken based on the results of the botanical surveys. The condition can only be determined on the day of the survey. Some of the criteria associated with the condition of the habitats could change such as sward height, physical damage, bare ground, and cover of

undesirable species, thus, impacting the overall score if assessed at a different time of the year.

5.0 BASELINE

Habitats

- 5.1 The habitat types within the site were noted during the survey visit conducted in August 2025. The habitats are summarised below with the baseline habitat map in appendix II, and condition assessment sheets in appendix III.
- 5.2 A summary of the baseline value habitats within the red line boundary is as follows:
- Other neutral grassland – g3c, 32
 - Modified grassland – g4
 - Mixed scrub – h3h
 - Species rich native hedgerow with trees – h2a5
 - Developed land, sealed surface – u1b6

Other neutral grassland - g3c, 32

- 5.3 The majority of the site impact area comprises other neutral grassland. The ground was dry at the time of the survey with bare patches visible. Frequent Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) with locally frequent cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) were recorded amongst common herbaceous species including frequent yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), locally occasional white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*).
- 5.4 Other neutral grassland was also present forming less than a 1 metre wide area between the hedgerow and footpath adjacent to the A3 London Road. This grassland was managed with bare earth patches due to the dryness of the ground.
- 5.5 Other neutral grassland is a medium distinctiveness habitat in moderate condition.

Modified grassland – g4

- 5.6 An area of modified grassland was located northwest of the development area. The grassland showed evidence of thatching and was regularly managed with evidence of recreational use during the site visit. Species present included locally abundant cock's-foot, frequent Yorkshire-fog, perennial rye-grass, creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and white clover, creeping buttercup

(*Ranunculus repens*), and occasional creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and daisy (*Bellis perennis*).

- 5.7 Modified grassland is a low distinctiveness habitat in moderate condition.

Mixed scrub – h3h

- 5.8 An area of planted mixed scrub is located between the grassland and hedgerow habitat. Species present include hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

- 5.9 Mixed scrub habitat is a medium distinctiveness habitat in poor condition.

Species rich native hedgerow with trees – h2a5

- 5.10 A hedgerow measuring between 5 and 6 metres in height and 2 metres in width comprising hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, elm (*Ulmus* sp.), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), dogwood, fruit tree (*Prunus* sp.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) was present. Standard trees including a pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) was present within the hedgerow.

- 5.11 Native hedgerow with trees is a high distinctiveness habitat in good condition.

Developed land, sealed surface – u1b6

- 5.12 Two areas of existing formal pathways were recorded within the site boundary.

- 5.13 Developed land, sealed surface is a habitat of very low distinctiveness which has no habitat condition.

Summary of baseline value

- 5.14 The baseline habitat value of the site is calculated as **1.25 habitat units and 0.49 linear units and zero watercourse units**. Table 1 provides a summary of the baseline areas and values for the site.

Table 1: Baseline habitats, distinctiveness, condition, and unit scores in June 2025.

Habitat type	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area (Ha/KM)	Ecological baseline Biodiversity unit
Habitats				
Other neutral grassland	Medium	Moderate	0.0325	0.26
Other neutral grassland	Medium	Moderate	0.0069	0.06
Developed land, sealed surface	Very Low	N/A- other	0.012	0.00
Mixed scrub	Medium	Poor	0.0084	0.03
Modified grassland	Low	Moderate	0.128	0.51
Rural tree	Medium	Good	0.032572033	0.39
Total habitat area			0.22	1.25
Total habitats excluding trees			0.19	
Linear				
Species rich native hedgerow with trees	High	Good	0.027	0.49
Total linear (km)			0.03	0.49

6.0 BNG GOOD PRACTICE FOR PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 As part of the BNG process there are ten good practice principles that help to achieve BNG if they are followed. Each principle is described below and how the project has addressed each principle.

Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy

- 6.2 The design of the development has tried to utilise the mitigation hierarchy by avoidance to any adverse impacts on habitats and species on site.
- 6.3 Species recorded on site are considered to be of low ecological value, with the exception of the hedgerow which is considered a priority habitat. This hedgerow was planted as part of the wider Berewood development proposals.
- 6.4 The development has not resulted in any adverse impacts by following the mitigation hierarchy.

Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere

- 6.5 Habitats that are considered 'irreplaceable' are those that would be technically difficult to recreate, replace, or restore once destroyed. Habitats such as ancient woodland and veteran trees are considered irreplaceable due to the time it takes to reach such condition. Irreplaceable habitat includes factors that contribute to the condition of that habitat including age, environmental context, achievability to recreate, and its geographical position within the landscape.
- 6.6 The site does not support any habitats of principal importance.

Be inclusive and equitable

- 6.7 The proposals have enhanced the grassland habitat which will be of benefit to wildlife.

Address risks

- 6.8 All habitats have been calculated within the red line boundary, including habitats within the development footprint. An enhancement area has been included in the calculations to offset the proposals.

- 6.9 Habitats to be created will be done so by appointed contractors who have experience in habitat creation, with the guidance of the appointed ecologist.

Make a measurable Net Gain contribution

- 6.10 The proposed development has been measured against The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The development has reduced its overall impact throughout the design of the scheme where possible. This has been achieved by including an off-set area within the red line boundary.

Achieving the best outcomes for biodiversity

- 6.11 The habitats on site include other neutral grassland, mixed scrub, modified grassland and species rich native hedgerows with trees. The site is of low ecological value and has the potential to support a range of nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians and foraging and commuting bat species.

Be transparent

- 6.12 Through the progression of the development, the design team and client have all been made aware of the communications and outcomes of the BNG.

Additional enhancements

- 6.13 Non measurable enhancements will include the installation of bird and bat boxes within the wider site.

Create a Net Gain legacy

- 6.14 Including native planting as part of the scheme will provide nectar or invertebrates and habitat for nesting birds, foraging bats, amphibians and reptiles.

Optimise sustainability

- 6.15 The landscaping plan for the development aims to be as sustainable as possible and provide net gain on site in an environment that will not be affected by further development. The habitats created sit within Town Park, which is a large area of green space to serve the Berewood development, which is regularly maintained by the appointed landscape contractors.

7.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The proposed toucan crossing will result in the loss of other neutral grassland, modified grassland, mixed scrub and species-rich native hedgerow with trees. A site proposal plan is provided in appendix IV.

Habitats lost

- 7.2 Table 2 provides a summary of the habitats and biodiversity units to be retained and lost as part of the proposals.

Table 2: Habitats to be retained and lost as part of the proposals.

Habitat type	Baseline units	Area retained (ha/km)	Area enhanced (ha/km)	Baseline unit retained	Area lost	Units lost
Habitats						
Other neutral grassland	0.26	0.023	0.00	0.18	0.01	0.08
Other neutral grassland	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.06
Developed land, sealed surface	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Mixed scrub	0.03	0.008	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Modified grassland	0.51	0.0039	0.08	0.16	0.01	0.04
Rural trees	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.39
Total area		0.07	0.08	0.37	0.07	-0.56
Total area excluding trees					0.04	
Linear features						
Species rich native hedgerow with trees	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.49
Total linear	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	-0.49

Habitat Created

- 7.3 Table 3 provides a summary of the habitats to be created on site including their area, target condition and target units.

Table 3: Habitats and linear features to be created on site, post-development.

Habitat	Area (ha/km)	Target condition	Predicted units
Habitats			
Developed land sealed surface	0.023	N/A other	0.00
Modified grassland	0.005	Poor	0.01
Mixed scrub	0.01	Moderate	0.04
Rural trees	0.138431139	Moderate	0.42
Total	0.18	N/A	+0.47
Total without trees	0.04		
Linear			
Species rich native hedgerow with trees	0.07	Moderate	0.59
Total	0.07		+0.59

Habitat Enhanced

- 7.4 0.08 hectares of modified grassland will be enhanced to other neutral grassland of moderate condition which will deliver 0.54 habitat units.
- 7.5 The proposals will deliver a net gain of **+0.14 habitat units (10.86%)** and a **net gain of 0.10 linear units (21.04%)**. The trading rules are satisfied for both habitats and linear features.

Figure 1: Headline results of the statutory metric from recommendations.

Headline Results		results menu	
Scroll down for final results ▲			
On-site baseline		Area habitat units	1.25
		Hedgerow units	0.49
		Watercourse units	0.00
On-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	1.39
		Hedgerow units	0.59
		Watercourse units	0.00
On-site net change (units & percentage)		Area habitat units	0.14 10.86%
		Hedgerow units	0.10 21.04%
		Watercourse units	0.00 0.00%
Off-site baseline		Area habitat units	0.00
		Hedgerow units	0.00
		Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	0.00
		Hedgerow units	0.00
		Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site net change (units & percentage)		Area habitat units	0.00 0.00%
		Hedgerow units	0.00 0.00%
		Watercourse units	0.00 0.00%
Combined net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	0.14
		Hedgerow units	0.10
		Watercourse units	0.00
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions		Area habitat units	0.00
		Hedgerow units	0.00
		Watercourse units	0.00

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Area habitat units	0.14
	Hedgerow units	0.10
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Area habitat units	10.86%
	Hedgerow units	21.04%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	1.25	1.38	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.49	0.53	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

8.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The proposals will deliver a net gain of **+0.14 habitat units (10.86%) and a net gain of 0.10 linear units (21.04%). The trading rules are satisfied for both habitats and linear features.**
- 8.2 To ensure that habitats created on-site and off-site reach their target condition, a Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will need to be created and implemented. Any proposed habitats and features created (either on, or off-site) will need to be managed and maintained over a minimum of 30-year aftercare period, in line with the mandatory requirements.

9.0 REFERENCES

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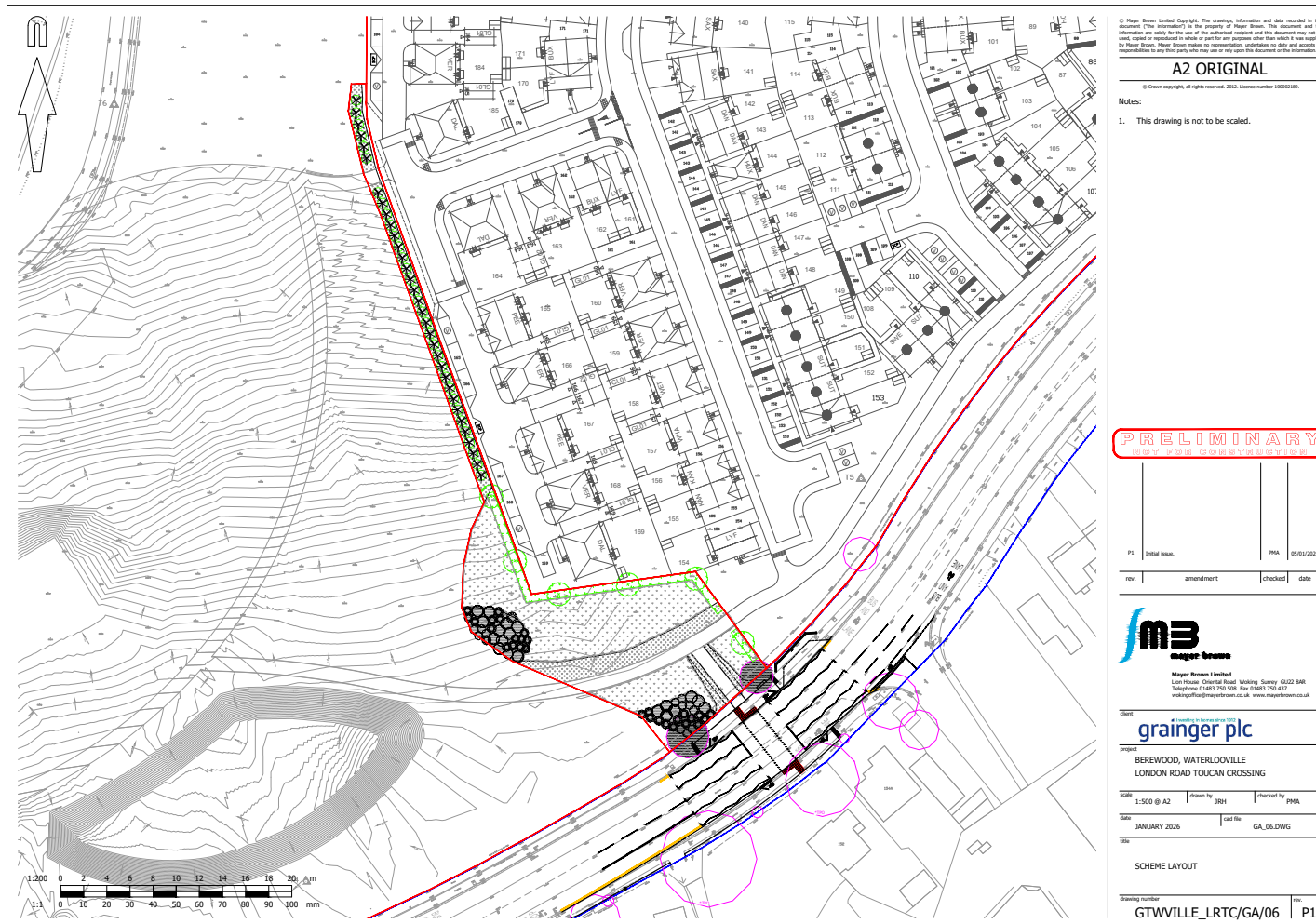
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APPENDIX I: PROPOSALS



APPENDIX II: BASELINE HABITAT MAP



APPENDIX III: CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Mixed scrub

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub			
Habitat Description			
Planted mixed scrub located between hedgerow and grassland.			
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:		Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)	
For other scrub types see:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification	
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site Town Park	Survey date and Surveyor name	Jenny Sutch 14/08/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	SU 67610 08727	Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	Species present are native including hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, guelder rose, dogwood and dog rose. No single species is dominate.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	One age range present.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	No INNS present
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	No	Tall grass/forbs are present adjacent to edge of grassland, these have not been cut due to close proximity to the scrub rather than a well-developed edge being created.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	Small area of planting

Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Yes	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Mature scrub species to be added. Develop scrub edge with grassland and scattered scrub. Create sheltered edges.			

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December 2025

Number of criteria passed											
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved %									
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)											
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)										
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)										
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)										
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)											
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)										
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	Yes	Yes								
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)										
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score											
Notes											
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UK01ab description.											
Footnote 2 - For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.											
Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and/or site.											
Footnote 4 - Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.											
Footnote 5 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1961 (as amended).											

Modified grassland

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Proposed new red line boundary at Town Park	Survey date and Surveyor name	Jenny Sulch 14/08/2025
Limitations (if applicable)	Vegetation was managed and ground very dry	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	SU 67569 08742	Habitat parcel reference	Enhancement site
Habitat Description Town Park public open space which is regularly maintained. Evidence of thatching occurring.			
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	No	Average five species per metre square recorded.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	No	The grassland is managed and is uniform and less than 7cm.
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	No scrub recorded on site.
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	Less than 5% of grassland area has been subject to physical damage.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Yes	Bare ground patches recorded total to less than 5%.
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes	No bracken present on site.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Yes	No INIS recorded on site.
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			No
Number of criteria passed			5
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x1/	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		

Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	Yes	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Improve management regime to create varied sward height. Increase species diversity with overseeding.			
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .			
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.			
Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.			
Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Species rich native hedgerows with trees

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow				
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch				
Native hedgerow with trees				
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Species-rich native hedgerow				
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch				
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees				
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees runs parallel to the A3 London Road				
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification				
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On Site, London Road Town Park		Survey date and Surveyor name	Jerry Sutch 14/08/2025
Limitations (if applicable)			Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	SU 67615 08726		Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A - E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.				
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.				
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes	Measures on average 5 to 6 metres
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	Measures on average 2 metres
B1. Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes	Gap between base and canopy is less than 0.5 metres for at least 90% of hedgerow length.
B2. Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length, and no canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Yes	No gaps were recorded.

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length. - Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and - Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat riches.	No	Cut grass is right up the the edge of the hedgerow on both sides.
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Yes	
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ² , as well as the BSBI website ³ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁴ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁵ .	Yes	No INNS recorded
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	No damage was evident.
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁶), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	No	All trees seems to be of similar age-class.
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Yes	Trees are in a healthy condition
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Category Requirements		Metric Score		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.		3		
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).		2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		1		
Score achieved:					
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees					
Category	Category Requirements		Metric score		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.		3		
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).		2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		1		
Score achieved:					
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score					

APPENDIX IV: PROPOSED HABITATS

